

St James CE Primary School Pupil Premium Strategy Statement

This statement details our school's use of pupil premium funding for the 2025 to 2026 academic year to help improve the attainment of our disadvantaged pupils.

It outlines our pupil premium strategy, how we intend to spend the funding in this academic year and the effect that last year's spending of pupil premium had within our school.

School overview

Detail	Data
School name	St James CE Primary School
Number of pupils in school	348
Proportion (%) of pupil premium eligible pupils	46.2%
Academic year/years that our current pupil premium strategy plan covers (3-year plans are recommended)	2025-2026
Date this statement was published	September 2025
Date on which it will be reviewed	September 2026
Statement authorised by	Chris Booth
Pupil premium lead	Chris Booth
Governor / Trustee lead	Rev. Andy Jones

Funding overview

Detail	Amount
Pupil premium funding allocation this academic year	£242,715
Recovery premium funding allocation this academic year	£0
Pupil premium funding carried forward from previous years (enter £0 if not applicable)	£0
Recovery premium funding carried forward from previous year	£0
Total budget for this academic year If your school is an academy in a trust that pools this funding, state the amount available to your school this academic year	£242,715

Part A: Pupil Premium Strategy Plan

Statement of intent

At St James our aim is to provide the best possible education for all pupils, so that they achieve well, make good progress and are able to go on to the next phase of their education successfully. To help us achieve this aim, the key principles of our pupil premium strategy are:

- Ensure quality first teaching and learning meets the needs of all pupils;
- Providing high quality CPD for all staff to meet the needs of our ambitious curriculum;
- Being committed to meeting the social and emotional needs of all pupils, as well as the academic;
- Working closely with families to offer support and raise expectations for all pupils;
- Through adequate assessment, appropriate provision is made for pupils who belong to vulnerable groups, including those who are disadvantaged, so that learning needs are identified and addressed.

Our school is situated in an area of high deprivation (The pupil base is in quintile 5 (most deprived) of all schools in terms of deprivation), therefore we recognise that not all pupils who are disadvantaged are registered or qualify for free school meals. We will use this funding to support any pupil or groups of pupils the school has identified as needing additional support to close the learning gap. Our current plan will help us achieve these objectives by:

- Funding quality CPD for staff to help address learning gaps;
- Funding additional staff to help address learning gaps where leaders have identified a need;
- Funding additional staff to ensure we offer an ambitious curriculum and quality first teaching;
- Funding activities and external agencies that address social and emotional needs of pupils;

Challenges

This details the key challenges to achievement that we have identified among our disadvantaged pupils.

Challenge number	Detail of challenge
1	Pupils have low levels of vocabulary acquisition which can hinder their ability to comprehend when reading and acquire new knowledge across the curriculum.
2	Reading fluency, comprehension and reading for pleasure.
3	Securing basic skills in writing, with a focus on sentence composition, spelling and application of basic grammatical skills.
4	Levels of absence and persistent absence for disadvantaged pupils is high compared to that of other and all pupils nationally.
5	Pupils show poor levels of resilience when faced with challenging tasks. This has been heightened since returning to school in March 2021, and in a small number of cases accompanied by behavioural issues.

Intended outcomes

This explains the outcomes we are aiming for by the end of our current strategy plan, and how we will measure whether they have been achieved.

Challenge Number	Intended outcome	Success criteria
1, 2	At the end of key stages, increased proportions of disadvantaged pupils will meet ARE in reading, to be at least in line with national other pupils.	At end of key stage 2, increased proportions of disadvantaged pupils to meet EXS+ in reading, to be at least in line with national other pupils: KS2 75%

1, 3	At end of key stages, increased proportions of disadvantaged pupils to meet ARE in writing, to be at least in line with national other pupils.	At end of key stage 2 increased proportions of disadvantaged pupils to meet EXS+ in writing, to be at least in line with national other pupils: KS2 72%
4	Rates of persistent absence for disadvantaged pupils to be reduced.	For rates of persistent absence for disadvantaged pupils to be more in line with national figures for other pupils.
5	For all pupils to show resilience when faced with challenges which will in turn improve outcomes for pupils. Pupils' who have demonstrated emotional difficulties since returning from the pandemic will be well supported in school.	At the end of key stages, increased proportions of pupils will meet the expected standard in RWM – 2025 national 62%

Activity in this academic year

This details how we intend to spend our pupil premium (and recovery premium funding) **this academic year** to address the challenges listed above.

Teaching (for example, CPD, recruitment and retention)

Budgeted cost: £129,805

Activity	Evidence that supports this approach	Challenge number(s) addressed
TLR for Early Reading and Phonics Supporting the English Leader with reading and phonic development predominantly in EYFS and KS1 but children who do not meet PSC at KS1.	Lead for teaching and learning to ensure all teaching is at least good. There is a consistently high standard, through setting expectations, monitoring performance, tailoring teaching and support sharing best practice. (Sutton Trust 2011)	1, 2 & 3
TLR for Inclusion Leader supporting leaders, teachers and support staff with delivering high-quality, effective interventions via the PiXL.	Lead for teaching and learning to ensure all that interventions are carried out consistently and systematically. They are delivery to a consistently high standard through setting expectations, monitoring performance, tailoring teaching and support sharing best practice. (Sutton Trust 2011)	1, 2 & 3

CPD for staff: ECM Subscription to Schoot and discounted training package. Subscription to RWI development training. ECM LP Days and MTLR to review and quality assure quality of education.	Ensuring an effective teacher is in front of every class, and that every teacher is supported to keep improving, is the key ingredient of a successful school and should rightly be the top priority for Pupil Premium spending (The EEF Guide to Pupil Premium Spend 2019).	1, 2 & 3
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Targeted academic support (for example, tutoring, one-to-one support structured interventions)

Budgeted cost: £12,288

Activity	Evidence that supports this approach	Challenge number(s) addressed
PiXL Subscription: to refine the process of intervention so that gaps in learning are explicitly identified and therapy sessions put in place for the most vulnerable pupils.	EEF toolkit identifies that small group tuition can have a moderate impact for moderate cost and can increase progress by 4 months.	1, 2 & 3
Subscription to Pathways online platform for all pupils to promote knowledge of reading & writing.	EEF Covid-19 Support for Schools mentions that: As all pupils return to schools, technology could also be valuable; for example, by facilitating access to online tuition or support.	1, 2 & 3
Subscriptions to Reading Plus platform for all pupils to increase levels of fluency in reading.	EEF toolkit identifies that small group tuition can have a moderate impact for moderate cost and can increase progress by 4 months.	1, 2 & 3
Subscriptions to Dreambox Maths platform for all pupils to increase levels of achievement in maths.	EEF toolkit identifies that small group tuition can have a moderate impact for moderate cost and can increase progress by 4 months.	1, 2 & 3
Subscription to Literacy Gold	EEF toolkit identifies that small group tuition can have a moderate impact for moderate cost and can increase progress by 4 months.	1, 2 & 3

Subscription to Mood Tracker	EEF toolkit states that behaviour interventions give moderate impact for moderate costs and can increase progress by 3 months. Targeted pupils have struggled with emotional well-being and managing behaviour since returning to school in March 2021.	5
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Wider strategies (for example, related to attendance, behaviour, well-being)

Budgeted cost: £100,622

Activity	Evidence that supports this approach	Challenge number(s) addressed
Additional staffing: 2 x Safeguarding, Nurture and Attendance Mentor TA4.	Absence in 2023-2024 for disadvantaged pupils was below that of all and other pupils nationally (school disadvantaged 9.2%, non-disadvantaged national 4.8%, all pupils national 5.7%) IDSR states that: Overall absence (7%) was in the highest 20% of all schools in 2023/2024. Persistent absence (24.3%) was in the highest 20% of all schools in 2023/2024. EEF toolkit states that behaviour interventions give moderate impact for moderate costs and can increase progress by 3 months. Targeted pupils have struggled with emotional well-being and managing behaviour since returning to school in March 2021.	4 & 5
Aspire Behaviour Support – Gold Package.	EEF toolkit states that behaviour interventions give moderate impact for moderate costs and can increase progress by 3 months.	5
Speech Therapist, half a day once a week	EEF toolkit states that oral language interventions give moderate impact for low cost and can increase progress by 5 months.	1, 2 & 3

School Counsellor, half a day once a week	Social, emotional learning support gives moderate impact with moderate cost, +4 months progress (EEF Toolkit)	4 & 5
Bolton Music Service including Wider Opportunities for KS1 and LKS2 pupils	EEF toolkit states that arts participation can have a positive impact on academic improvement especially with younger pupils, and in some cases, disadvantaged pupils. It can increase progress by 2 months.	1, 2, 3 and 5
Rocksteady Music	EEF toolkit states that behaviour interventions give moderate impact for moderate costs and can increase progress by 3 months. Targeted pupils have struggled with emotional well-being and managing behaviour since returning to school in March 2021.	5
Rock Kidz Day focusing on resilience.	EEF toolkit states that behaviour interventions give moderate impact for moderate costs and can increase progress by 3 months. Targeted pupils have struggled with emotional well-being and managing behaviour since returning to school in March 2021.	5
Inclusive Attendance	Absence in 2023-2024 for disadvantaged pupils was below that of all and other pupils nationally (school disadvantaged 9.2%, non-disadvantaged national 4.8%, all pupils national 5.7%) IDSR states that: Overall absence (7%) was in the highest 20% of all schools in 2023/2024. Persistent absence (24.3%) was in the highest 20% of all schools in 2023/2024. EEF toolkit provides evidence for the importance of building a holistic understanding of pupils and families, and to diagnose specific needs. It highlights the need to build a culture of community and belonging as well as communicating effectively with families.	4, 5

Total budgeted cost: £242,715

Part B: Review of outcomes in the previous academic year

Pupil premium strategy outcomes

This details the impact that our pupil premium activity had on pupils in the 2022 to 2023 academic year.

Quality of Teaching for all:

- Teaching and learning is judged to be consistently good by leaders in the school; therefore, all pupils receiving a high quality of education.
- Leaders judge the school's quality of education to be good. The impact of the curriculum lead has led to a strong intent for all curriculum subjects.
- Ofsted (Oct 24) judged Teaching and Learning to be GOOD.
- Outcomes at EoKS2 were higher than previous year and in line or above national figures.
- Year 1 pupils will need further support due to rise in SEND needs.
- Year 3 & 4 will need further support considering the rise of SEMH needs.

Targeted Academic Support:

- Pupils regularly accessing speech therapy – particularly our youngest pupils. This has had a positive outcome on WellComm assessments in EYFS and phonics screen.
- Children across KS1 and LKS2 accessing wider opportunities programmes from Bolton Music Service.
- Use of online subscription to deliver tailored support in reading and maths needs further utilisation to ensure rapid progress.

Wider Strategies:

- Since the start of the pandemic, attendance figures still remain a concern for all pupils. Further work for attendance needs to continue in the strategy for 2025-2026

Given this, attainment for PPG in comparison to all for internal assessments completed in July 2025 at the end of KS2 are as follows:

	Reading		Writing		Maths	
	Expected+	High Standard	Expected+	High Standard	Expected+	High Standard
All	71%	27%	64%	10%	69%	31%
PPG	66%	28%	59%	7%	72%	31%

Externally provided programmes

Please include the names of any non-DfE programmes that you purchased in the previous academic year. This will help the Department for Education identify which ones are popular in England

Programme	Provider
PIXL	The PIXL Club
Gold Package - Behaviour Support	Aspire Behaviour Support
Counselling in school	My Space Counselling Service
Inclusive Attendance	Inclusive Attendance
Reading Plus	Dreambox
Dreambox Maths	Dreambox
Pathways Platform	Literacy Company
Speech & Language	Bolton LA
Literacy Gold	Literacy Gold
Mood Tracker	SAAS